

(c) If so, the response of the Government of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (c) The Government are aware of the activities of unfriendly agencies, directed against India, from foreign soil. During the Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in June, 1997, the determination of the two countries was reiterated, to work closely and fight the scourge of terrorism. The Prime Ministers directed their Home Secretaries to meet at the earliest to develop an understanding in this regard. They also renewed their commitment not to allow their territory to be used for activities directed against or prejudicial to the security of the other. They further desired that the meeting of the "Joint Working Group on Border Management be held at the earliest".

[Translation]

#### House to Beedi Workers

180. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct houses for beedi workers at Nohta in Madhya Pradesh and one crore rupee is proposed to be given for the construction of houses for the weaker sections; and

(b) If so, the further progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Central Government have already financed the construction of 50 houses for beedi workers at Nohta through the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. For constructing these and other houses of similar categories at other locations in Sagar which is the concerned administrative division, a subsidy amounting to Rs. 1 crore 21 lakhs and 50 thousand has been released to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. While the houses at Nohta are already completed, the houses at other locations are at various stages of construction.

[English]

#### Kendriya Bhandar

181. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

SHRI RAMSAGAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Bhandar is inviting tenders for the supply of items when the same goods could be obtained from the manufacturers or their authorised distributors;

(b) If so, the reasons for floating tenders by the Kendriya Bhandar;

(c) the details of the persons who are supplying

items in the Kendriya Bhandar by having entry into Kendriya Bhandar through tenders;

(d) whether these parties are manufacturers or authorised dealers; and

(e) whether the Government propose to order an enquiry into the same and to immediately stop inducing goods by means of tenders rather than directly from the manufacturers or their authorised dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) As per the approved purchase policy of Kendriya Bhandar, stationery and other items for sale to Government Departments and grocery items like pulses, spices, washing soap etc. are procured on the basis of competitive tenders. While evaluating tenders for such items, subject to rates being competitive, preference is given to manufacturers or their authorised distributors. Products for which offers from manufacturers or their authorised distributors are not received are procured on the basis of lowest technically acceptable tenders.

(c) and (d) As on 15.7.97, Kendriya Bhandar had 622 suppliers of goods including manufacturers and their authorised representatives, as per details indicated in the Statement attached.

(e) The procurement of goods through tender system is meant to meet the norms of financial propriety and is free from objections. The system provides equal opportunity to all the ensures procurement at competitive rates. There is no proposal to change the policy and no enquiry into the matter is called for.

#### Statement

##### Kendriya Bhandar

##### List of Accounts

Sl.	A/c Code	Account Name
1	2	3
1.	A00001	Ambey Laboratories (Regd)
2.	A00002	Aravali Leasing Ltd.
3.	A00003	Ankita Interprises
4.	A00004	Apex India Inc.
5.	A00005	Aggarwal Traders
6.	A00007	Aay Kay Lights (India)
7.	A00008	Apollo Furnishers
8.	A00010	A. Kay Industries
9.	A00011	Ahmeq Oomerbhoy